# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA CENTRAL DIVISION

FARM BUREAU PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY a/s/o DAVID BJUSTROM,

Court File No.:

Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT** 

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED** 

VS.

CNH INDUSTRIAL AMERICA LLC,

Defendant.

Plaintiff Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company a/s/o David Bjustrom, by and through its attorneys, Yost & Baill, LLP, for its Complaint against Defendant CNH America LLC, states:

# **JURISDICTION**

- 1. The court has subject matter jurisdiction over this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332. The plaintiff and the defendant are citizens of two different states, are diverse parties, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00.
- 2. Venue is proper in the Northern District of Iowa pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) in that a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this district and that a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated in this district.

#### **PARTIES**

3. Plaintiff Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company ("Farm Bureau") is an insurance company with its home office located at 5400 University Ave, West Des

- Moines, Iowa, and is duly licensed by the State of Iowa to sell insurance and conduct business in the State of Iowa.
- 4. At all relevant times, Farm Bureau issued a policy of insurance to David Bjustrom (hereinafter "Bjustrom"), an Iowa resident, which provided among other items, coverage for damage to Bjustrom's Case IH AF 8120 combine, Serial Number: YBG213703 (hereinafter "the Combine").
- 5. Upon information and belief, at all times material herein, Defendant CNH Industrial America LLC ("CNH"), is a foreign limited liability company registered to do business within the State of Iowa with a registered agent of C T Corporation System, 400 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309, and a home office of 700 State Street, Racine, WI 53404, according to the Secretary of State of Iowa.

### **FACTS**

- 6. Upon information and belief, Defendant CNH was and/or is the manufacturer of the Combine.
- 7. On or about October 16, 2018, the Combine, while being properly operated in a field near the intersection of 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 300<sup>th</sup> Street in Burt, Iowa, started on fire.
- As a result of the fire, the Combine was destroyed and other personal property was damaged.
- 9. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the insurance policy referenced in paragraph 4 of this Complaint, Farm Bureau was obligated to and did, in fact, pay an amount in excess of \$75,000.00 to or on behalf of Bjustrom for damages incurred as a result of the fire.

10. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the insurance policy identified in paragraph 4 of this Complaint, and by virtue of its payments to Bjustrom for damages incurred as a result of the fire, Farm Bureau is subrogated to all rights, claims, and causes of action Bjustrom may have against CNH is connection with the fire.

# **COUNT ONE – NEGLIGENCE**

- 11. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1 through 10, as though fully set forth herein.
- 12. CNH negligently manufactured, designed, constructed, assembled, packaged, and/or distributed the Combine.
- 13. The negligence of CNH was a proximate cause of the fire and the damages sustained by Plaintiff.

### **COUNT TWO – BREACH OF WARRANTY**

- 14. Plaintiff realleges Paragraphs 1 through 13, as though fully set forth herein.
- 15. CNH expressly or impliedly warranted the fitness and merchantability of the Combine described herein.
- 16. CNH breached the mentioned express or implied warranties of fitness and merchantability.
- 17. The breaches of warranties were a direct and proximate cause of the fire and resultant damages to Plaintiff as described above.

#### COUNT THREE – STRICT LIABILITY

- 18. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1 through 17, as fully set forth herein.
- 19. The Combine was defective and that as a direct and proximate result of said defect,
  Plaintiff suffered the damages described hereinabove.
- 20. CNH is strictly liable for the damages sustained by Plaintiff as described herein.

## **COUNT FOUR – FAILURE TO WARN**

- 21. Plaintiff reallages Paragraphs 1 through 20, as though fully set forth herein.
- 22. CNH negligently failed to provide Bjustrom with reasonable warnings of defects and hazards which it knew or should have known were present in the Combine described herein, which negligence was a direct and proximate case of the fire described herein.

## **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

23. Plaintiff demands a trial by jury of any and all issues in this action so triable of right.

Dated this \_\_5\_ day of April, 2019.

By /s/ David J. Taylor
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